

REMARKS

Claims 18-20, 23-26, 31-34, 37-43, 46-47 and 52 are pending in the application. Claims 18, 20, 23, 37, 40 and 52 have been amended. Support can be found in the claims and specification as originally filed. New claim 53 has been added and support can be found, for example, in the Summary section. Claim 27 has been canceled. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the remarks below.

With respect to all amendments and canceled claims, Applicants have not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter and moreover have not acquiesced to any rejections and/or objections made by the Patent Office. Applicants reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded claim embodiments in future continuation and/or divisional applications.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 18-20, 23-26, 31-34, 37-43, 46-47 and 52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Dao et al.* (01/15/97, *Blood*, Vol. 89, pgs 446-456) (hereinafter "*Dao*") and in view of *Young et al.* (09/01/1996, *Blood*, Vol. 88, pgs. 1619-1631) (hereinafter "*Young*"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection with respect to pending Claims 18-20, 23-27, 31-34, 37-43, 46-47 and 52. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

The Examiner has asserted that "only in claims 20 and 40 is the limitation where the cells do not differentiate recited, where TPO is present" (Page 3, lines 5-6 of the Office Action). In response, Applicants have amended claims 18, 23, 37, and 52 to include this limitation. Claims 20 and 40 have been amended to omit this limitation. New claim 53 includes this limitation. Accordingly, the inventions recited in independent Claims 18, 23, 37, and 52-53 are non-obvious over the disclosures of *Dao* and *Young*. Dependent Claims 19, 20, 24-26, 31-34, and 38-43, 46 and 47 are patentable for at least the same reasons. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 18-20, 23-26, 31-34, 37-43, 46-47 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn and that new claim 53 be found allowable.